

(5) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)

(6) Desert Development Programme (DDP)

(7) Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP)

Completion of Telugu Ganga Project

300. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge cost escalation in Telugu Ganga Project;

(b) the details of its initial estimate in 1983 and the present estimated cost; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed to solve drinking water problems of Chennai besides problems of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BUJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has not intimated the present estimated cost of Telugu Ganga Project. However the estimated cost of the Project was Rs. 2470.00 crore (as per the review report of September 1997) against the initial estimated cost of Rs. 637.00 crore in 1983 as reported by Andhra Pradesh. The Project is likely to be completed beyond IX Plan.

Linking of Major Rivers

301. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the action taken to link major rivers as recommended by the K. L. Rao Committee to solve the problem of certain areas facing problem of floods while other areas registering perpetual drought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BUJOYA CHAKAVARTY): There is no Committee under the name of K. L. Rao Committee. However, Dr. K.L. Rao proposed Ganga Cauvery Link which was examined by the Central Water Commission and found to be grossly under estimated. Besides the proposal also required a large block of power and was devoid of any flood control benefits. However, the Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and Central Water Commission have formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development

[25th July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

which envisages inter linkages between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilization of water resources. The Government of India has established National Water Development Agency as an Autonomous Society in July 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of National Perspective Plan.

Clearance to Upper Krishna State-II Projects

302. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether after years of waiting Government have given its technoeconomic clearance to the Upper-Kishna State-II Projects including Almatti reservoirs;

(b) if so the details thereof and the estimated cost of the projects; and

(c) the extent of delay suffered for want of such clearance and the cost escalation caused thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Upper Krishna Stage II Multipurpose Project (Irrigation Portion) with Almatti Dam full reservoir level (FRL) at 519.6 metres has been cleared from techno-economic angle at an estimated cost of Rs. 2849.06 crore for providing annual irrigation to an area of 226688 ha.

(c) There is no escalation in cost due to delay in clearance as the matter regarding height of the Almatti Dam was subjudice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India who gave its Judgement on 25.04.2000

Water Shortage in Rajasthan

303. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been acute shortage of water in Rajasthan for the past one year; and

(b) what are the main causes and the steps taken to overcome this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes Sir.